



H1N1 Virus Partner Briefing

Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

September 16, 2009, 3 p.m.

Local Influenza Activity Level: Sporadic¹, H1N1 predominant circulating strain

Rhode Island: 75 hospitalized to date, 3 deaths

National Report²: 42 states with 1,097 hospitalized cases, 168 deaths

Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness): Rhode Island: 0.7%, Regional: 0.7%, National: 3.4%

H1N1 vaccination locations for target populations

People targeted for early H1N1 vaccination efforts will be able to receive the H1N1 vaccine at the following venues this fall:

- Children aged 6 months to 5 years: pediatricians' offices
- Children grades K-12: school vaccination clinics
- Pregnant women: birthing hospitals, prenatal care providers' offices
- Household contacts and caregivers of infants younger than 6 months: providers' offices, public clinics
- Healthcare workers and first responders with direct patient contact: hospital-based (Healthcare Service Regions) clinics
- Young adults aged 19 to 24 years: college/university clinics, public clinics

New CDC guidance for small businesses

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released new guidance for small businesses to help them prepare for the possibility of flu outbreaks this flu season. The CDC guidance, *Planning for 2009 H1N1 Influenza: A Preparedness Guide for Small Business*, helps small businesses write flu preparedness plans. It also provides tips for employers on protecting the health of their employees this flu season. To read the CDC guidance for small businesses, please see <http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/smallbiz.html>. For additional guidance for businesses and employers, please see <http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/index.html>.

New influenza and immunization pages on HEALTH's website

The Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) has reorganized the influenza and immunization content on its website to make it easier for people to find the information they need this flu season. Information about both seasonal flu and H1N1 flu is now located at the new Flu homepage, www.health.ri.gov/flu. From the Flu homepage, users can navigate to flu-related news and advisories and to information about flu prevention, treatment, vaccination, and surveillance. Information is also available for specific audiences, including schools and child care providers, parents and caregivers, pregnant women, and people at high risk of flu-related complications.

Immunization information is now located at the new Immunization homepage, www.health.ri.gov/immunization. From the Immunization homepage, users can navigate to news and advisories related to immunization, as well as to information about flu vaccines, vaccine safety, vaccine coverage rates, and vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunization information is available for specific audiences, including schools, parents, adults, and

¹ The criteria for sporadic influenza activity include no increase in influenza-like illness activity and isolated confirmed cases of influenza or a confirmed outbreak in one institution.

² The CDC has developed a new web-based reporting system for influenza and pneumonia-associated hospitalizations and deaths. These numbers reflect the first week of data from this new system.

WASH HANDS/ALCOHOL GEL SNEEZE IN ARM STAY HOME WHEN SICK

travelers. In addition, the website contains information about the Department of Health's various immunization programs for children, adolescents, and adults.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- H1N1 Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-8022
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- WHO at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>